Trade Agreements with Germany, Russia and China after New Budget Proposals

676. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the countries with which Trade Agreement have been signed by his Ministry particularly after the announcement of new budget proposals during the year 1992, and is likely to be signed during the year 1992-93 including Germany, Russia and China ;

(b) what are the details of Indian goods agreed upon for trade/export proposed to be encouraged with such countries keeping in view the country's interests ; and

(c) what are the names of the countries which have recently sent to India their Trade/Business Missions for increase in trade with our country in view of the recent economic liberalisation policy followed/announced by Government and the outcome of results advised in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHINDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) It is our endeavour to increase bilateral trade with all countries. After the announcement of new budget proposals the Trade Agreements have been signed with Kyrghyzstan, Ukraine and Turkmenistan. The Agreement with Russia was also initialled on 22nd February, 1992. The Agreement signed with Ukraine, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan provide for trade on the basis of international prices and in freely convertible international currencies. No list of goods for export to these countries have been attached to the Agreement.

(c) The official level delegations from some West European Countries Thailand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, China, Mauritius, Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia Angola and Zaire have visited India since August, 1991. Apart from identification of items of mutual interests, the discussions with these delegations have helped in arriving at a fuller understanding of concerns of each other.

Financial crisis to exporters of leathers products to Soviet Union

677. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of leather products to the former Soviet Union are facing any financial crisis ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The problem has surfaced for exporters in general, in the absence of rupee generation arising ou of exports to India by countries of the former Soviet Union, as the exports have not commenced under the New Protocol. The matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned Governments who have been urged to begin supplies of commodities and raw materials as per the trade protocol to India so that Indian exports can also effectively take place.

Import of ball bearings

678. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Ball and Roller Bearing Manufacturers Association alleging that under-invoicing of large imports of ball bearings has pushed the indigenous industry into a crisis ;

(b) whether low quality bearings were imported from China and the Eastern Block countries ;

(c) whether the importers are paying only 10 per cent duty while indigenous manufacturers have to pay heavy duty on important of raw materials and excise duty on manufactured bearing ; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the indigenous manufacturers ?